

deeply proud of, his service to the country.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Army, Tom returned to Detroit, where he graduated from Wayne State University Law School and was admitted to both the Michigan and Florida Bar Associations. He became the managing partner of a law firm in Daytona Beach and had many exciting real estate ventures in Florida before moving back to metro Detroit in 1990 to establish his own firm, where he practiced for another 18 years.

Tom married his exceptional wife, Janet, in 1991. Together, they opened their hearts and their home in Northville to members of our community on countless occasions.

This was the stuff that the Democrats of Western Wayne County are made of, and it is what raised me as a young candidate for Congress to propel me into office.

Their generosity was boundless and their ability to connect people endless. It is something that we will remember for all of time, in their home, in downtown Northville, that looked as if it was built in the 1800s but was actually built by Tom himself.

With his generous spirit and political acumen, Tom was a tireless advocate for the causes closest to his heart. He cared very deeply about the work being done in this Chamber, and he was focused on efforts to make our democracy more fair, strong, and inclusive for generations to come.

During my final visit to Mr. Hess, when I got the opportunity to say good-bye to him—because in classic Tom Hess fashion, he insisted, as he lay in hospice, on having an open, living wake—he looked me in the eye and said to me that his ultimate wish, his dying wish, was to see H.R. 1, the For the People Act, signed into law.

He was passionately committed to ensuring the success of our democracy, and he recognized the historic opportunity we have before us right now to bring our elections into the 21st century and to ensure that everyone has the right to vote. He looked me in the eye and said: I ask you to tell your colleagues on both sides of the aisle, but most penetratingly, the other side of the aisle, to join you in getting H.R. 1 done.

Now, we know we have taken the H.R. 1 vote in this Chamber, and it is going to the Senate. So I send the message from Northville, Michigan, as any good representative of their constituents would do: Pass H.R. 1 now. Send this to the President's desk for his signature.

Tom showed us a life well-lived. For if cleanliness and perfection of home is godliness, that was Tom and Janet.

The Wall Street Journal in August 2020, just last year, reflecting on the hobbies that people were taking up in the pandemic, shared stories about people building model trains in the bottom of their homes, and that was something that Tom already had in his home. He

had this model train station that we would, during the pandemic, go down and look at. He disassembled it and gave it to a museum before he passed away. So, he beat the pandemic trend.

We know that Tom is survived by his loving wife of 29 years, Janet Hess; his children, his son, Raymond, and his beloved granddaughter, Hazel; his in-laws; many nieces and nephews; and extended family members throughout Michigan and Indiana.

The family pays tribute to Angela Hospice, providers who I had the chance to meet when I was visiting with Tom, for their tireless work and dedication to the people in the most sacred time in their life, and, of course, the VA hospital in Ann Arbor, which Tom loved so dearly.

I thank my colleagues for joining me and recognizing my beloved constituent, Tom Hess.

□ 1030

#### HONORING MEN AND WOMEN OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise during National Police Week to honor the men and women of the law enforcement community and to condemn the ongoing attacks of those members of our law enforcement community.

In particular, to Wisconsin's law enforcement community, I say: Thank you.

The past year has been particularly tough on our law enforcement officers. Just outside the State Capitol of Wisconsin in Madison is the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial.

Last year, this memorial was vandalized. A criminal took a sledgehammer to the granite, which is etched with the names of the men and women who died in the line of duty protecting our communities.

Last week, six more heroes had their names added to the law enforcement memorial, but the ceremony was interrupted by antipolice protestors. During the prayer, protestors yelled that the deaths of these officers, whose names were being etched into the memorial, were not a sacrifice.

Antipolice protestors held up signs with hateful words and disrupted a solemn ceremony with vile chants. It was disgusting to see the absolute lack of respect and the display of hatred and complete ignorance.

Contrary to the antipolice protestors at the ceremony, these officers are heroes. They died protecting us. They died protecting our communities.

Let me tell you about just one of them. Officer John Hetland was one of the names added to the Wisconsin memorial this year. He was a 24-year veteran of the Racine Police Department. Officer Hetland was a hero. He made a commitment to serve and protect our communities, whether on or off duty.

When a local business was being robbed at gunpoint, Officer Hetland attempted to stop the suspect. Officer Hetland was murdered. He was shot in the chest by this criminal. He died protecting our community.

We have seen antipolice rhetoric go too far. After riots broke out in Kenosha, officers from Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Rock, Waukesha, and Milwaukee Counties and across the State of Wisconsin put their lives on the line to defend Kenosha and protect the people in our communities.

I will never forget hearing those same vulgar chants when criminals attacked officers in the streets of Kenosha. As fires were being set throughout the city, I remember watching officers duck as Molotov cocktails were being thrown at them, as water bottles filled with concrete were being thrown at them and hurled in their direction. Even as an officer was struck in the head by a brick and knocked unconscious, the criminals cheered. That is unbelievable. That is heartbreaking.

Violence towards our police officers is something our Nation cannot tolerate. We should collectively speak out against the attacks on our police and against the calls to defund the police. We should be supporting our men and women in law enforcement.

To the members of the law enforcement community, I want you to know this: The people of Wisconsin's First Congressional District say: Thank you; thank you for keeping us safe.

#### REJECT THE INSULAR CASES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is holding a hearing on the insular cases, doctrines which hold the territories in a perpetual state of colonialism.

Earlier this year, I served as a House impeachment manager in the second trial of President Donald Trump. My presence on the floor of the U.S. Senate carried a great deal of meaning for me. It also said a lot about America.

Although I was making the case, I was unable to actually cast a vote in the House. My constituents in the Virgin Islands, U.S. citizens, remain unable to vote for President, lack any voice in the Senate, and have only a limited vote in the House.

The second-class treatment of the territories is not just unfair; it is un-American. More than 3.5 million Americans are denied the right to vote simply because of where they live, whether it is Puerto Rico; Guam; Northern Mariana Islands; American Samoa; or my home, the Virgin Islands of the United States. This number of people is equivalent to the population of the five smallest States combined, and each of the territories send more men and women to the military per capita than any State.

More than 98 percent of the territorial residents are racial or ethnic minorities like me, a fact that cannot be a mere coincidence in our continuing disenfranchisement, which extends well past the century mark.

Our Nation's Founders never intended our country to work this way. Alexander Hamilton, as a young man, arrived in New York after spending his formative years in my home on St. Croix. He and others risked their lives to reject colonialism. They wanted no part of it. They understood that governments derive their just powers from the consent of those governed.

America has, from its inception, included U.S. territories. The original understanding was that the Constitution provided a promise of full political participation to each resident of a territory through eventual statehood. Until that happened, the Constitution was understood to fully protect their rights.

That promise was broken after the United States began acquiring island territories in 1898. During that time, in a series of decisions known collectively as the insular cases, the Supreme Court invented an unprecedented new category of unincorporated territories whose residents were not on a path to statehood. Which territories the Court determined were unincorporated turned largely on the Justices at the time's view of the people who lived there—people they labeled in those court opinions as half-civilized, savages, alien races, ignorant, and lawless—people like Alexander Hamilton; Camille Pissarro, the founder of Impressionism; Edward Wilmot Blyden, the founder of Pan-Africanism; and me—lawless, savage.

While other racist Supreme Court decisions from that same era by those same Justices—such as *Plessy v. Ferguson*—have long been overturned, the insular cases remain. The last three administrations—Bush, Obama, Trump—have all upheld and fought for these same cases. Indeed, our own House Parliamentarian uses the insular cases to deny the people who live in the territories and their representatives full voting rights on this floor.

The ramifications go well beyond just voting. We do pay billions in Federal taxes, yet residents of the U.S. territories are denied and limited access to Federal programs and support. Otherwise, eligible citizens in the territories are denied SSI, leaving our most vulnerable seniors and disabled to fend for themselves. Federal programs like Medicaid, SNAP, child tax credit, and the earned income tax credit are capped or denied altogether.

The Supreme Court will soon tackle questions of Federal discrimination against citizens in the territories in *United States v. Vaello-Madero*, a case where the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit ruled unconstitutional the arbitrary denial of SSI benefits in Puerto Rico.

The Justice Department should not continue defending this case. The

House should not continue to defend and utilize the insular cases to deny people living in the territories basic rights.

Making sure that 3.5 million U.S. citizens can vote is not a partisan issue. Of my four other colleagues in the territories, two are Democrats and two are Republicans. We are not a monolithic people.

Our country has been given a collective opportunity to ask what America is and who we are as a people. These questions extend to America's responsibilities to citizens living in the territories.

Please reject the insular cases.

#### SUMMER CAMPS SHOULD REOPEN WITHOUT MASKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, this year, due to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines restricting outdoor activities, many children will be stuck inside when they should be outdoors in the sunlight playing, learning new skills, making friends, and enjoying their childhoods. This is not only important for their mental health but also their physical health and enhancing their immune system.

And it is even more critically important in those States which have still not reopened their schools fully to in-person learning, despite all scientific evidence to the contrary.

Yesterday, The New York Times reported that the CDC had hugely exaggerated their guidelines by saying that less than 10 percent of COVID-19 transmission occurs outdoors, and that the actual estimate of outdoor transmission is somewhere between 0.1 percent to 1 percent.

This misleading guidance from the CDC has led to confusion, increased hesitancy to view outdoor activities as safe, and many summer camps have been forced to close their doors again for yet another year.

We have known for quite some time that the risk of transmitting COVID-19 outdoors is exceedingly small. In Iowa, there was not a requirement to wear masks outdoors, even though physical separation and maintaining small group size was encouraged.

Due to shelter-at-home orders, the numbers of cases of youth depression, anxiety, attempted suicides, suicides, increased drug use, and hospitalizations have continued to increase, despite the overall decrease in new COVID cases, hospitalizations, and mortality rates.

A staggering report from the CDC found that from March to October of 2020, mental health emergency department visits from adolescents had increased 31 percent from the same time in 2019.

With the good news related to rapidly approaching community immunity

from the pandemic and the relaxing of a number of protocols and controls, the CDC's newly released guidelines for summer camps is both overly cautious, rigid, and unscientific.

Many of us have fond memories of spending time with friends and family, including a week at summer camp. Summer camps are a staple of childhood and adolescence.

More than 6 million children attend the day and overnight summer camps in any given year. Denying children their ability to attend these camps and the opportunity to make a friend, learn independence, life skills, learn teamwork, build self-esteem, and continue their education beyond the school year is atrocious.

With over 12,000 summer camps across the country, there are plenty of opportunities for our children to grow, learn, and play.

Iowa is home to several great camps, including Forest Lake Baptist Camp in my home county; Hertko Hollow, a camp for children with diabetes; and Camp Courageous, a camp specifically for children with disabilities.

Summer camps also provide employment for over 1.5 million Americans every year. This represents a great opportunity for high school students and adults to have great experiences outdoors while earning an income.

As a doctor, former president of the Iowa Medical Society, and former director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, I have addressed the severity of COVID-19 and have been a strong and consistent advocate for all three of the safe and effective vaccines developed through Operation Warp Speed, and, in fact, just finished attending and administering vaccines at clinics in all 24 counties in my district.

Just a few days ago, the Pfizer vaccine was given emergency use authorization to be administered to children 12 to 15 years old. It has been well-documented that children are at exceedingly low levels of risk for serious illness and that they do not transmit the virus.

COVID-19 deaths were 277 through the end of April. To put this in perspective, the CDC estimates around 600 children died of influenza in the 2017–2018 season; 358 died during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic; and each year, more than 700 children die from drowning.

We can see the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel, and as the number of Americans who are vaccinated continues to grow, coupled with those who have natural immunity from having the disease, I expect to see a return to normalcy and a return to pre-pandemic life. A return to normal includes allowing our kids to be kids.

I am hopeful that we will be able to send our children to summer camp in the coming weeks so that they can have the experience and opportunities that they deserve.

Time is extraordinarily limited, and I implore the CDC to act now and allow summer camps to reopen to full activities without the wearing of masks.